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P- ANDERSON, JACK

CIA 7 China

CIA-04 Lilley, James

MARKS, John

ORG 1 Center For

NATIONAL Security

Studies

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By Jack Anderson

CIA Plant—Despite the sensitivity of U.S.-China relations, the Central Intelligence Agency has quietly placed an operative in the U.S. mission in Peking. He is James R. Lilley, a "political officer" who has also served in Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos.

This is but one of the explosive revelations in a soon-to-be published Washington Monthly article by investigative journalist John Marks, co-author of "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence." Marks, now an associate of the Center for National Security Studies, also disclosed that over a fourth of the 5,435 State Department employees who work overseas are actually undercover CIA agents, and the number is steadily rising. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee routinely approves the appointment to sensitive posts of Foreign Service Reserve Officers who are in reality CIA agents. Of the 121 names submitted to the committee last year, 70 were agents, he wrote.